

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 6, 5, 7, 9-18, 20-26, 29, 31-48, 51, and 53-56 are allowed and renumbered as 1-48.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Arguments/Remarks, filed 8/27/2008, with respect to claims 1-4, 6, 5, 7, 9-18, 20-26, 29, 31-48, 51, and 53-56 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 5, 7, 9-18, 20-26, 29, 31-48, 51, and 53-56 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Curtin on 2/13/2009.

In claim 1, line 2, -in a transmission section- is added after the word "send".

In claim 1, line 5, -in a receiving section- is added after the word "receive".

17. (currently amended) A network device operable to:
by itself generate independently in a transmission section and send a backward path reservation message to a destination after receiving in a receiving section a backward

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path request message of a separately generated, initial forward path request message associated with a forward Label Switched Path (LSP) from the destination in order to establish a backward LSP between the device and the destination.

39. (currently amended) A method for creating a bi-directional LSP comprising the steps of by a network device generating and sending a backward path reservation message to a destination after receiving a backward path request message of a separately generated, initial forward path request message associated with a forward Label Switched Path (LSP) from the destination in order to establish a backward LSP between the device and the destination.

55. (currently amended) A network device comprising means for by itself generating and sending a backward path reservation message to a destination after receiving a backward path request message of a separately generated, initial forward path request message associated with a forward Label Switched Path (LSP) from the destination in order to establish a backward LSP between the device and the destination.

Citation of Pertinent Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Meempat et al. (US Patent 6,904,017 B1) teach that reverse path may be different in than the forward path (see col. 10, lines 6-10); and MPLS is applied for both directions (see col. 5, line 55 to col. 6, line 10).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WANDA Z. RUSSELL whose telephone number is (571)270-1796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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